

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 24th February 1900.

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## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 17th February has the following:—

Thrice did General Buller advance, and thrice English defeats in the Transvaal has he retreated. Thrice has General Joubert successfully opposed General Buller's advance. The war.

British troops fought gallantly, but they have been sadly disappointed.

What does this prove? Does it prove that Englishmen are weak and worthless? Does it show that they have forgotten the art of war? Certainly not. He is indeed a great hero whom no defeat can daunt, who can stand on his legs immediately after a fall. He is a true hero whose valour and enthusiasm are only increased by defeat. It is only the hero of many battles who has sometimes to suffer defeat. It is only a rough-rider who sometimes gets a fall from his horse. It is only a busy man who sometimes commits mistakes. "Speak to me of a General," said Napoleon, "who has made no mistake in war, and speak to me of one who has never made war."

To tell the truth, we find the fullest manifestation of British power even in these British defeats and blunders. We find before us a colossal figure with the strength of a hundred lions and endowed with unbounded perseverance, unlimited resources, and inexhaustible enthusiasm. To us an Englishman no longer appears to be a puny mortal. He appears to have a colossal body, long arms, and long legs. His helmet seems to touch the sky. He appears to be seizing all the good things in the world with his long, outstretched hands. He appears to be swallowing the universe with mouth wide open. Can this be the figure of one who has been defeated? What a spectacle! Two lakhs of British troops have been conveyed to South Africa across thousands of miles of sea, and are soon going to be concentrated. British defeat only proves British prowess.

Russia is taunting England for her defeat and calling her weak. But has Russia never been defeated? Does she not remember how she got defeat after defeat in her war with the Tekke Turkomans? Does she not remember how in the war with the Caucasian tribes, thousands of Russian soldiers had to lay down their lives? In the July of 1845 ten thousand Russian troops attacked Prince Schamyl. There was a desperate fight in which seven thousand Russian soldiers were killed. In the Spionkop battle Sir Redvers Buller lost no more than two thousand and five hundred soldiers. Has Russia also forgotten that twenty thousand Russian troops had to lay down their lives in Plevna? France, why are you rejoicing? Remember how Napoleon was harassed and beaten in the Peninsular war. Remember how long it took you to conquer Algeria and at what cost. Remember how you were humbled down to dust in your war with Germany; you still bear the marks of that humiliation. Remember also how you fared in your war with China. Remember how many French soldiers and officers were killed in that war, and how you were defeated in the end. Have you forgotten the humiliation of surrendering to a Chinese force? You were defeated by China, that notorious opium-eater. Do you not feel ashamed to taunt England for her defeat? Again, Spain failed to conquer the Cuban rebels with one hundred and fifty thousand troops, and America has failed to maintain peace in the Philippines with sixty thousand troops.

Do not therefore laugh at British defeats in the Transvaal war. Let no one consider England weak even if Ladysmith is not relieved. It will not be a discredit to England even if she is defeated by the Boer army led by talented French and German officers. English prestige will not suffer even if England is ultimately defeated by what is practically a European combination against her. Who shall say that the world-wide British Empire will suffer in the least even if England has really to give up her South African colonies? Was the British Empire injured in the least when England was ultimately defeated by Washington and had to grant the Americans independence? Compare England of those days with England of the present time, and you will see that her power and prestige have increased a hundredfold. The British defeats in the Transvaal war need not therefore cause us any anxiety.

2. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th February is glad that the British have gained a signal victory over the Boers. It is the firm conviction of the public that

BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 17th, 1900.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

England will defeat the Boers in the long run. The relief of Kimberley has not yet been officially confirmed. The official news is that General French has arrived at Kimberley, and the *Englishman's* special correspondent says that Kimberley has been relieved. May the *Englishman's* special correspondent's news be true, so that we may be relieved of our anxiety and make ourselves merry.

HABLU MATEEN,  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

3. The *Hablu Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th February has the following:—

Russian movements in Central Asia. Russia's movements in Central Asia, have created a great sensation in political circles in Europe.

According to the *Times* these movements will in no way affect India. Perhaps Russia intends to extort some fresh concession from Persia. If that be true, then it must be said that Persia will soon have to face a crisis. She ought to make full preparations for averting any danger which may threaten her from Central Asia. She ought to keep a vigilant eye upon Khorassan, the only route by which Russian troops may invade Persia. It is true that England openly declared that she would protect her interests in the Persian ports in defiance of all the other Powers. But let it not be understood from this that England will take hostile measures against Russia for the sake of Persia.

HABLU MATEEN.

4. The same paper says that most of the European nations are sympathising with the Boers. The French and the Russians are jubilant over the reverses which the British troops have met with in South Africa.

HABLU MATEEN.

5. The same paper says that according to a French paper, the British Government spends every year fifteen hundred thousand pounds to increase its navy, and although France does not spend half that amount, England is not half as strong as France in naval power. The British army which is now making war with the Boers in South Africa is far superior to the Boer force, and yet British troops have failed to defeat the Boers. If the casualty list published by the English contains twenty as killed it contains five hundred as missing. From this it may be conjectured that the War Office does not give correct information about the casualties. England occupies an inferior position among the Powers so far as her military strength is concerned.

HABLU MATEEN.

6. A correspondent of the same paper asks whether it is true that the Customs officer of Bunder-Abbas has made delay in issuing a *firman* for the confiscation of some boxes which contained European paint. The European officials, although vested with unlimited powers, do not dare to do anything which is calculated to infringe the law. But in Persian ports the law is often violated by the officials. As there is no law to regulate mercantile transactions in the Persian ports, and as the number of port officers is too small to manage the business, complaints are heard against the conduct of the Persian port officers from almost all quarters. The only thing which can check foreign ships from importing contraband is a strict legal measure rigorously enforced. Very often the Persian Government has been requested to prevent European steamers from taking on board Persian female passengers without male attendants and from importing arms and ammunition and paint into the Persian ports, but the Government and also the customs authorities have paid no attention to these requests, and the consequence is that European rifles, which are far superior even to those which the Persian troops possess, are to be seen in the hands of all lawless people, and Persian carpets, once famous for beauty and fineness, have lost their value in the eye of the people. European steamers carry on board female passengers without male escort not only from Persia, but also from Bagdad, which belongs to the Turkish Government. The Persian Government conjointly with the Turkish Government ought to take legal steps to put down this scandal.

HABLU MATEEN.

7. The same paper says that Mohmerah is the most important port of Persia. It is the key to Teheran and Ispahan. The European Powers may quarrel with one another over this Persian port. Persia ought to make herself ready before any hostility takes place among the Europeans. This danger may be averted by reforming the internal administration of Persia in all its departments. The

navy is the first thing necessary for safeguarding the Persian ports. It is true that in carrying out all these reforms, Persia will have to spend a large amount of money, but it is to be borne in mind that the fruit which this reform will yield will be sweet.

8. The *Dainik Samachar* [Calcutta] of the 19th February is elated with joy to learn the news of the relief of Kimberley. The relief of Kimberley. It is a great pleasure that Lord Roberts' first move has been successful. When General French crossed the Modder the relief of Kimberley was a foregone conclusion, but even then it was not expected that Kimberley would be relieved so soon. The news is certainly reassuring.

DAINIK SAMACHAR,  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

### (a).—Police.

9. A correspondent writing in the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 13th February says that there has been a recrudescence of theft in a village in the Mymensingh district.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Feb. 13th, 1900.

constant dread of them. Thefts are occurring here almost every night.

10. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th February complains of the recrudescence of crime in Mustafapur, a village in the Faridpur district. A gang of *badmashes* live in Ghatakchar near Mustafapur who commit all sorts of crime. There are twelve *chaukidars* and three *dafadars* in the village, but they do not properly do their duty.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 14th, 1900.

11. The *Java Yug* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following:—

The Calcutta Police. Go to any street in Calcutta, and you will find the constables, either chatting with the betel sellers and accepting presents of betels from them or harassing petty shop-keepers who display their goods on the streets and refuse to bribe them. The jamadar on his rounds does the same thing. It seems that the sole duty of the constables is to drive these petty shop-keepers from the streets. It is an offence to expose goods for sale on the public streets in Calcutta; still there is scarcely a street in the town in which there are not some such petty shops. The reason is obvious. These petty shop-keepers give bribes to the constables and are therefore not molested. But we think that the police have more important and urgent duties besides molesting petty shop-keepers. False weights and measures are being extensively used in almost all the bazars in Calcutta, and the police, though empowered to arrest any one who uses such weights, do nothing in this direction. Why are the police so kind to these shop-keepers? We drew the attention of the authorities to this matter long ago, but they did not think it worth their while to do anything in this direction. The practice has long been in vogue in Calcutta. The shop-keepers of Calcutta have become so much emboldened that they now publicly use these false weights. The police know all this and can arrest them with very little effort, but they do not do so. The other day we detected a shop-keeper in Natun Bazar using false weights and wanted to hand him over to the police; but the constable who was on duty at the place did not help us. The shop-keeper said to us in our face—"I have to pay Rs. 40 to the police for this purpose." We call upon the Government to decide whether the Commissioner of Police ought or ought not to take action in the matter.

JAVA YUG,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th February has the following:—

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 16th, 1900.

The suspicious death at Jaynagar, 24-Parganas. Pandit is now over. It is now necessary to let the authorities know the opinion of the public about its results. The public have been suspecting ever since Navakumar's death, that it was neither accidental nor due to natural causes. The following are the grounds for this suspicion:—

(1) Navakumar was brought to the police-station hale and hearty; he did not come out of it in that sound state of health.

(2) Navakumar was since his boyhood strong and robust. He had no disease and was not addicted to intoxication.

(3) A man was lying half dead for hours within a few yards of the police station, and it is strange that the police received no information about it.

(4) The police did not at first admit that they had suspected Navakumar to be a thief and had him called to the police-station several times. That Navakumar was called to the police-station has been proved by evidence, but there is nothing in the police records to that effect.

(5) Navakumar was so seriously suspected by the police that learning that, on the 29th December last, Navakumar had gone to Dhapdhapi within the jurisdiction of the Baruipur thana, Babu Rakhal Das Basu, Second Sub-Inspector of the Jaynagar thana, went to the house of Babu Kailas Chandra Basu of Dhapdhapi and searched it. The police records, however, do not contain anything to that effect.

(6) The man died at 5 P.M., but his corpse was sent up early on the morning of the following day, though the police had a *donga* of its own in which it could have sent up the dead body much earlier.

(7) It is a firm conviction of the public that the police torture people to extort confessions from them. Cases of such torture are not rare.

For these reasons the public, from the very first, suspected that Navakumar's death was not due to natural causes. In the opinion of the Civil Surgeon, who held the *post-mortem* examination, the death of Navakumar was due to the regurgitation of vomited matter into the air passage. This opinion does not lay the public suspicion at rest; it only increases that suspicion. The Civil Surgeon himself admits that such regurgitation is sure to cause death within a few minutes, but, in this case, the deceased lay unconscious for a long time before death, and Doctor Bamandev Bhattacharyya, who had examined the deceased shortly before his death, discovered marks of opium poisoning, and opium was found among the contents of the stomach. All these circumstances create suspicion in the public mind.

Babu Mahendranath Gupta, Deputy Magistrate, who enquired into the case, has come to the conclusion that the death was due not to natural causes, but to opium self-administered to escape torture and ill-treatment at the hands of the police. Here is the decision arrived at by Mahendra Babu :--

"Even the worst enemies of the police will not say that the police had any object in killing Nabo Kumar. On the contrary, they were interested in keeping him alive and recovering the stolen money from him. It cannot be said that when torture brought the deceased within a few inches of death, they managed to make him gorge opium. Such a thing is not possible in the case of a dying man, and there were no marks, internal or external (*vide* Civil Surgeon's deposition) in the body to shew that torture had been used. The upper part of the small intestines was congested—deeply congested; such congestion may be, the Civil Surgeon says, caused by pressure, but there was in this case no evidence, in his opinion, of pressure having been applied. Congestion may be due to other causes. The deceased was subject to occasional attacks of hernia. Congestion does not generate opium. Opium was in this case, in all likelihood, self-administered. Witnesses Shama Churn Mukerjee and Kedernath Ghose have stated that Nabo Kumar was not addicted to the use of any intoxicants. Therefore the opium found in the contents of the stomach was not the remnant of a daily dose. All these facts lead to the conclusion that Nabo Kumar killed himself. As regards regurgitation into the air-passage of vomited matter, it was an accident; such regurgitation cannot be caused voluntarily or artificially. It must have taken place within the last few minutes of the deceased's life. Whatever power a man may possess to resist it, is lost to him in a state of unconsciousness. But why should Nabo Kumar take his own life? The plausible explanation is that he had been subjected to all sorts of ill-treatment and insult sufficiently intense to prone him to that act, or that he had been put in fear of some injury or ill-treatment."

The police, of course, did not kill the man, nor did it torture him with the intention of killing him. But does not the police know how to torture a man without producing marks of violence on his person? We may not have personally witnessed, but we have certainly heard of that strange method of police torture which consists in the application of worms to a man's navel. The absence of all marks of violence does not therefore prove absence of torture.

It is a great pleasure that Mahendra Babu is also of the same opinion. Even in his opinion the police inhumanly tortured the deceased, or at least threatened him with insult and oppression, which led the man to commit suicide.

But is it impossible that the police administered opium to the deceased in order to relieve him of the pain caused by torture which had left no marks of violence on his person? The Civil Surgeon found the upper part of the small intestines congested, and held that such congestion might be caused by pressure. No one can say that no pressure was applied. The absence of all marks of violence, on the other hand, strengthens the suspicion that pressure *was* applied.

There are many reasons for thinking that this case was clearly not a case of suicide. The case thus came to the notice of the public: At about 4 or 4-30 A.M. the deceased was found lying unconscious on a bench in front of one Kshetra Das's shop, which is very close to the police-station. The men who found him called aloud to Kshetra Das, who, with the help of a light, recognised him as Naba Kumar Pandit of his village. The man could only mutter the word "police," and interpreting this word in his own way, Kshetra went to the police-station, but the constable on duty told him that the police officers were all sleeping, and no help could be given. Kshetra returned disappointed, and, on his way home, found Birjrang Singh, a constable, whom he asked to help him in carrying Naba Kumar into his shop. But the constable pleaded illness, and went away. Kshetra then placed Naba Kumar in his shop with the help of some passers-by. Gradually a large crowd was drawn, but all the time the police remained studiously oblivious of this occurrence. At about 10 or 10-30 A.M. the news was communicated to Babu Kedarnath Ghosh, 1st Sub-Inspector of the Jaynagar thana, and he, as if surprised, went to the scene and proposed to send the man home. But at the request of some gentlemen, he gave up that idea, and doctors were called to treat him. Naba Kumar, however, was now beyond all medical help, and he breathed his last at 5 P.M.

Now, if it was a case of suicide, why did not Naba Kumar return to his house to take opium there? Is it not rather strange that the man did not commit suicide at home or at any other place, but went straight to a bench near the police-station to commit it?

We differ from Mahendra Babu only in one particular, and it is this: It was the police who administered the opium, not with the object of killing the man, but with the object of allaying his pain. We regret that the District Magistrate of the 24-Parganas has not accepted Mahendra Babu's decision. He has exonerated the police from all blame, and holds that Naba Kumar committed suicide in order to escape the indignity of being convicted of theft. Mr. Allen would not have arrived at this conclusion if he had known the character of the Indian police. There can be little doubt that the police is at the root of this death, be it called murder or suicide.

13. The same paper has the following:—

The Hazaribagh case.

A black man has again been killed by a white man in Hazaribagh. Mr. Sibold, the Executive Engineer of Chota Nagpur, and his friend, Mr. Meares, son of the late District Superintendent of Police, Hazaribagh, went out walking, when they came across an old villager. These Europeans were perhaps of opinion that every native was their hereditary slave, and was therefore in duty bound to reply to their questions and carry out their behests. If this were not their opinion, if they really believed that Indians were, like themselves, people under the protection of the Queen-Empress, they could not treat the man so haughtily and high-handedly as they actually did.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 16th, 1900.

The old man did not know that he would unexpectedly come across two hardhearted Europeans, who were like twin brothers of Death. He did not know that their accosting him would be followed by his death. Even when they came near him, he did not anticipate that he would not be able to return home safe and sound. It was in an unlucky moment that he came across these Europeans. They asked him a question, and instead of respectfully replying to it and carrying out their order, he expressed dissatisfaction and annoyance. Could anything be more disobedient, rash and obstinate?

The innocent cool-headed Europeans then fell to testing the physical strength of the unfortunate black man, and took recourse to violent devices to

ascertain how much his body could bear. A shower of blows and kicks proved the toughness of his muscles. The old man was laid prostrate, and then the two heroes, proud of their victory, began to ascertain the extent of the harm their victory had caused the enemy. The poor old man had no doubt been born with a diseased body. Why else should this simple test prove his death? It is not easily that a hard native life is taken away by the soft European hand.

To tell the truth, the life of the man was struggling to escape from its mortal coil when the Europeans came to its assistance. They gave the diseased body of the native a shaking, and his life departed from his body. No one need be told that in this case it was the native who was in the wrong from beginning to end. But the innocent Europeans were put to great trouble and inconvenience. They had to give up strolling at their ease, and had to go to the police-station and give bail. What cruelty to Europeans!

We cannot at present say whether the *post-mortem* examination of the dead body will prove that the death was caused by the bursting of the spleen or by any other similar accident. But if the Europeans are not acquitted or let off with a light punishment, great injustice will be done to them. It is not to be expected that the established rule regarding the trial of European offenders will be departed from in this instance. The natives are born to die. So let them die. But it ought to be a matter for consideration whether these accidental deaths of natives should be allowed to interfere with the ease and comfort of Europeans. We shall be glad if no useless fuss is made over the matter.

It is not always true that we are subjects of the Queen-Empress and always happy under British rule. An element of disquiet is gradually making its appearance in our midst. In quarrels between natives and Europeans injustice is, in most cases, done to natives. Is there no official who can make up his mind to remove this blot, this stain upon British rule? Those who have been appointed to protect us often go against us, those whom we expect to do justice often encourage injustice and misrule. Those whose duty it is to uphold justice often try their best to shield European offenders at the cost of justice.

But this is not all. European soldiers must not be punished. They should not be punished even if they kill natives, or they will rise against the Government. This, indeed, is the belief of many, and it is impossible to combat this impression. Sir George White framed strict rules to put down oppression by soldiers, but without any effect. The Rangoon outrage case has led Lord Curzon to devise means for putting down the evil complained of. Time alone will show how far he will succeed.

The native is oppressed by the European soldier in various ways. A company of soldiers come to a village, and the shopkeepers are made to part with their goods for nothing or for only a fraction of their actual price. If they demand price for goods supplied, they are sure to get blows and kicks. Their spleens may sometimes burst and their limbs get maimed. The law of the land could not punish the accused in the O'Hara case. Of what use, then, is such law?

BUHARAT MITRA,  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

14. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 19th February says that Mr. Sibold, Executive Engineer, Hazaribagh, and

his friend, Mr. Meares, strolling about at their ease, met a poor old man who, on being asked some questions, did not give a prompt answer. This enraged the gentlemen and they assaulted the poor man so violently that he died on the spot. The old man, of course, died; but one cannot say that these gentlemen assaulted him with a murderous intent. The gentlemen, therefore, had no help in the matter. The case will be tried by a European Judge and a European jury. Sir John Woodburn knows fully well the merits of the case. Let every one wait to see how the case is decided.

BUHARAT MITRA.

15. The same paper complains that cocaine is being sold everywhere in Calcutta. Young men addicted to the use of

opium, *charas*, *madak* and *bhang*, being unable to procure them everywhere, are largely using cocaine, which can be easily procured. It is a regret that this poisonous drug is being sold under the very nose of the police, who do nothing to stop its sale.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

16. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 14th February has the following:—

The Treasury Officer of Berham-pore.

On the 9th February last, a local mukhtear, on behalf of Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandi, deposited in the Berhampore Treasury Rs. 398 for a court-fee stamp of that value. After the deposit had been made, it was found that the stamp would not be required, and the mukhtear therefore requested the Treasury Officer to refund the money. But he said that as the price had been once deposited, it could not be refunded. The mukhtear then made an application in writing, stating that as the stamp had not yet been endorsed, he was entitled to a refund. The Treasury Officer gave the following order on the application: "Quote rule and submit." Before, however, any rule could be quoted, he ordered the *amla* to endorse the stamp. No further orders were passed on the application up to the 10th instant, and the mukhtear refused to take the stamp, as the rule did not say that the price could not be refunded. We hear that the Treasury Officer does not always deal lawfully with stamp-vendors and the purchasers of court-fee stamps. He is always desirous of doing harm to somebody. Persons depositing the price of court-fee stamps scarcely get them on the same day. If a deposit is made at 11 A.M., the stamps are not got till 4 or 5 P.M. This causes much inconvenience to the parties.

17. The same paper has the following:—

Babu Dina Nath De, Deputy Magistrate of Berhampore.

On the 17th of January last, one Sarba Bewa of Berhampore made a complaint against one Porakhalifa of that place under section 352 of the Indian Penal Code. On the 24th of January the case came up before Babu Dinanath De, Deputy Magistrate of Berhampore. The accused did not appear, but the complainant informed the Court that the case had been compromised and that she was not, therefore, willing to proceed with it. Although the offence was a compoundable one, the Deputy Magistrate issued a warrant against the accused because he had not appeared. The unfortunate Porakhalifa was arrested and brought into Court, when he was released. By acting in this way this Deputy Magistrate did nothing new. He always acts in his own way. Can anybody say why he was so anxious to have only a look at the accused? Why did he issue a warrant in a case which had been compromised according to the statement of the complainant? Of course, there is a remedy in an appeal to higher authority against such irregularity, but it is not always possible for poor suitors to prefer appeals.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th February writes as follows:—

A complaint against the Calcutta High Court.

In the Calcutta High Court it has always been the practice to elect him as the foreman of the jury whose name is first called out during the empanelling. But in the case of Shaikh Hosaini, in the last Sessions, after the jury had been empanelled, the Clerk of the Crown asked them to elect their foreman. The first juror called in this case was a native, and hence this departure. People will lose their faith in the High Court if this departure has been made to prevent a native from being a foreman. If such distinction of colour is observed even in the highest court of justice, where will we expect to get justice done to us?

19. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the sentence passed in the Fancy Bazar case is sadly inadequate.

The punishment in the Fancy Bazar case.

in this case. In 1894 the first accused was fined Rs. 5 for a similar offence, and it is clear that it is this light punishment which has emboldened him to commit the offence again. Why did the police grant him a license for a Fancy Bazar after his conviction? What guarantee is also there that he will not be again granted a licence for the same purpose? The accused has made a fortune by swindling the public, and a fine of Rs. 10 is nothing to him.

20. The *Saraswat Patra* [Dacca] of the 17th February complains that

Mr. Rankin's order about the Mukhtears' suretyship.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Feb. 14th, 1900.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI.

HITAVADI,  
Feb. 16th, 1900.

HITAVADI.

SARASWAT PATRA,  
Feb. 17th, 1900.

surety for an accused person. There are only 25 mukhtears in Dacca who pay the income-tax, and this order will not only do pecuniary harm to those mukhtears who do not pay the income-tax, but will also cause accused persons great trouble and inconvenience.

TRIPURA HITAISHI,  
Feb 19th, 1900.

21. A correspondent writes as follows in the *Tripura Hitaishi* [Tippera] of the 19th February:—

Writing out decrees in the We have long noticed a serious omission on the Bramanbaria Munsifi. part of the *amla* of the Munsif's Court at Brahmanbaria in the Tippera district. After a judgment has been delivered the *amla* writes out the decree and the Munsif affixes his signature to it afterwards. The *amla* only states the name of the Munsif who passed the decree, but omits the name of the Court by which the decree was passed. This causes great inconvenience to parties. Suppose Babu Annada Prasad Bagchi, the second Munsif of Brahmanbaria, passes a decree. It is simply stated in the decree that it was passed "in the Court of Babu Annada Prasad Bagchi, Munsif, Brahmanbaria," but the words "Brahmanbaria, Second Munsif" are omitted. Now, if an appeal is preferred against the decree, and the records are called for, the *amla* in Brahmanbaria will be able to find out the records, but it will not be so easy for the *sadar amla* to do so, if they do not happen to know Annada Babu to be the second Munsif.

Great difficulty is also experienced at the time of the execution of a decree. The judgment-creditor has to apply for the execution of a decree to the Court which passed it. Suppose, Annada Babu is transferred, and two years after a person applies for the execution of a decree passed by him. It will be very difficult for this person to ascertain to which Court he would have to apply for execution. Again, if a person desires to apply for the copy of a judgment eight or ten years after it was passed, he will not be able to do so if he cannot correctly name the Court which decided the suit. We hope that the authorities will see that no such omission is made in future.

(d)—*Education.*

ULUBARIA DARPAH,  
Feb. 12th, 1900.

22. The *Ulubaria Darpan* [Ulubaria] of the 12th February is sorry that nothing has yet been finally decided about the aid which is given to the Ulubaria High School, and which was suspended long ago by Babu Brajendra Kumar Guha, Officiating Inspector of Schools. The suspension of the aid is causing great inconvenience. It is not known whether the authorities intend to stop the aid altogether. If that is their intention they ought to inform the Managing Committee of the school of it, and thus give them an opportunity of moving the Director of Public Instruction in the matter. We refrain from commenting on the trifling incident which led to the suspension of the aid.

NAVA YUG,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

23. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following with reference to the recent resolution of the Government on the selection of text-books:—

Henceforward the Director of Public Instruction will be the President of the Text-Book Committee and the Committee will consist of 20 members, some of whom will be taken from the Education Department and the rest will be distinguished independent outsiders. The books approved by the Director will be submitted to the members of the Committee for an expression of their opinion. The proposal is a good one, but it will be difficult to carry it into effect. Text-Book Committees cannot be expected to work well if they are not forbidden to examine books written by their own members and their friends.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

24. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following with reference to the recent resolution of the Government on Text-book Committees:—

On reading the opening paragraphs of this resolution, we thought that the object of the Government in issuing it was only to see whether or not the rules prescribed by it for the selection of text-books in 1881 had been loyally carried out. We think, however, that Lord Curzon's Government has not been able to enter into Lord Ripon's object in issuing the Resolution of 1881. Lord Ripon advised the Provincial Governments to select

text-books with the help of a permanent Committee, but Lord Curzon holds that the permanent Committee should only express their opinion on books previously approved by the Government and submitted to them. Lord Curzon is curtailing both the power and the scope of the Committee. Who will come forward to serve on a Committee without remuneration for the purpose of giving advice, which may be accepted or rejected at the pleasure of the Government? The Government cannot depend on the members of the Committee, but it will be able to depend on the one or two persons who shall be appointed by the Director of Public Instruction to examine books received by him. The men appointed by the Director will have the power to reject any book, and their decision will be final. The Government of India has adduced a novel argument against the existing system. It says that heaps of books are sent to the Text-Book Committees, and their members do not find, therefore, time to judge their merits. But we ask, will not heaps of books be sent also to the man who will be appointed by the Director? And how will that one man be able to examine the books properly? Lord Curzon's Government has also brought unaided schools within its clutches. It has ruled that if any book is taught in any unaided school, which has not been approved by the Government, the school will not be allowed to compete with other schools. When Government commenced writing its lengthy resolution, its only intention was to devise means for giving effect to its Resolution of 1881, but when it came towards its close, it practically went against that resolution. In the resolution of 1881 the aided schools had been given the power of selecting their own text-books. But in the Resolution of 1900 the Government has deprived both aided and unaided schools of this freedom. When we read in the resolution that it was the duty of the Government to see what text-books were taught in private schools, we at once discovered the real object of the Government in issuing it. Is arbitrary rule going to attain its climax under Lord Curzon? We fear the Government will soon deprive the University of its power of selecting text-books and will strike off the list of University text-books Burke, Milton and all books like them.

25. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 16th February has the

following:—

The Government of India's Resolution on the selection of text-

books. The Government of India has recently issued a Resolution on the selection of text-books.

The Text-Book Committees will not henceforward have power to select text-books as before. The members will only have power to express their opinion on books previously approved by the Director of Public Instruction. The Director will be the President of the Text-Book Committee, and will see that all sections of the community are represented on that Committee. The power of selecting subjects and text-books on those subjects will rest entirely with the Government. But what does the Director of Public Instruction know of Bengali literature? It is true that the Text-Book Committee has many faults, but the Government has not done well by curtailing its power. It is also said in the Resolution that the text-books approved by Government will be taught in the Government as well as in the aided schools, and if any aided school refuses to accept those books, its aid will be stopped. As regards unaided schools, if any book is taught in them not approved by Government, they will not be allowed to compete at any public examination.

26. One Babu Sasankasékhar Mittra writes as follows in the *Dainik*

*Chandrika* [Calcutta] of the 19th February:—

The Government of India on Text-Book Committees.

We are glad to see that the Viceroy has at

last, at the advice of Mr. Pedler, our worthy Director of Public Instruction, resolved to effect a much-needed reform of the Central Text-Book Committee. Every body will be glad to find a learned and independent man like Mr. Pedler take in hand such an arduous task. Our Lieutenant-Governor, too, has earned the thanks of his subjects in this connection. The reforms that are going to be effected under His Honour's and Lord Curzon's *regime* deserve every praise. Praised be Lord Curzon, and praised be His Honour, and praised be Mr. Pedler too.

There are many faults in the Central Text-Book Committee, and the Hon'ble Dr. Guru Das Banerji, its present President, is responsible for this. By the grace of God, Dr. Bauerji occupies a high position and is possessed of learning and intelligence befitting that position. But he has no spirit of

*MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,*

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*DAINIK  
CHANDRIKA,*  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

independence in him. He would not have been subjected to the slight and injustice which are going to be inflicted upon him by the Director's taking over from his hands to his own the control of text-books, if, as President of the Committee, he had acted with the strictest justice. If Dr. Banerji has the least sense of self-respect, he should without delay tender his resignation in vindication of the prestige of his Committee. His example will be followed by many worthy members, and the Government will no longer see the necessity of forming a new Committee.

Under the proposed scheme, the Text-Book Committee will be slighted, and Government will depend mainly on the Director for a proper selection of text-books. Of what use, then, will a Committee be?

We have grave doubts if all the members of the existing Committee are disinterested and independent men. Among the members who have no personal interests to serve, may be mentioned Pandit Mahes Chandra Nyaya-ratna, C.I.E., Babu Chandra Nath Basu, M.A., B.L., Pandit Rajendra Chandra Sastri, M.A., Babu Sarada Charan Mitra, M.A., B.L., Professor Jagadis Chandra Basu, and Babu Pratap Chandra Ghosh. As at present constituted, the Committee contains many members who have not the learning or intelligence to claim such a high honour. We fail to understand why men like Babu Nagendra Nath Basu and Mr. Abdul Karim were made members of the Committee. Again, there are members who remain on the Committee simply for the purpose of serving personal interests.

The Committee ought not to have so many as 20 members. The number of members should be much smaller. The anomaly, also, of appointing to any particular Sub-Committee a man who is not proficient in the subject to be dealt with by the Sub-Committee should be removed, and the opinions of the Sub-Committees of the Central Text-Book Committee should, like the opinions of the Sub-Committees of the Calcutta University, be made final.

27. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th February has the following:—

*Lord Curzon's Convocation speech.* In his Convocation speech the Viceroy dealt with many questions. The speech opened with the repetition of the oft-repeated truth that the object of knowledge was not simply "to obtain a career for oneself and sustenance for one's family," but also "to mould the character of the individual student into a higher moral and intellectual type." We are quite tired of these platitudes, of the frequent repetition of this trite truth. What is now required is to ascertain how far the existing system is calculated to fulfil the noble object of education and how far it should be reformed so that it may fulfil that object.

The manner in which the Viceroy defended high education was uncalled for. It is for the first time that we hear that western education has not taken congenially to the Indian soil, because there is an essential antagonism between the eastern and the western mind. No one can say that it is our eastern prejudices which have prevented us from loving western education. The eastern and western methods of education may be antagonistic, but it is natural for the more efficacious of the two to supplant the other. The truth is that the existing method of imparting western education in this country is not of a superior nature, and this is why its recipients utilise it for ulterior purposes instead of valuing it for its own sake. If western philosophy and western science could have created any taste or interest for them in our mind, Indian students would not have been found to sell their European text-books the moment they had passed their University examinations, and the Viceroy would not have had to speak of the "pecuniary value of a passed student in the native marriage market." Necessity for western education is felt and acknowledged. What is complained of is that it is not being imparted in a manner which is likely to attract Indian students. The instances which Lord Curzon cited of the evil effects of western education are by no means rare. None of us take any real interest in knowledge, and it is the University which is responsible for our apathy.

In the opinion of the Viceroy, western education is calculated to improve the intellect and the moral faculty of the Indian youth, notwithstanding its faults and shortcomings; in fact, it has, to a large extent, succeeded in bringing about that improvement. As for the beneficial nature of high education, none

but the officials hold two opinions about it. We do not question the usefulness of western education ; what we want is that the existing system of imparting it in this country should be improved. We expected the Viceroy to suggest reforms in the existing system, but instead of doing that he exhausted all his energy in an uncalled for and unnecessary defence of western education. There are defects in the constitution of the University, in the selection of text-books, in conducting examinations. It was hoped that Lord Curzon would suggest means for the removal of those defects. But he sadly disappointed us.

In the opinion of the Viceroy, chief among the abuses of the present system is the tendency in the educated community to chafe against restraints, to question motives, and to impugn the prestige of authority. We fail to understand to what the Viceroy referred in these remarks. There is no doubt that since the introduction of western education, Indian youths have become a little impatient of authority and discipline. But the Viceroy did not evidently refer to that. He most probably referred to the popular discontent created by the passing of retrograde measures. It is, however, doubtful whether it is impugning the prestige of authority to protest against objectionable measures.

Lord Curzon said that his recent resolutions on education faithfully foreshadowed his educational policy. If this is true, we must have cause for anxiety.

28. The same paper complains that this year the Principals of Colleges were requested, a few days before the Convocation,

The last Convocation.

to furnish the names and addresses of the successful

PRATIVASI,  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

candidates. The Principals did not know the addresses of many of the candidates, and these had therefore to go away disappointed. The candidates were also required to present themselves at 1 P.M., but they had to wait for an hour before the doors of the Senate House were opened. The Professors of Colleges were not invited, and the Principal of only one private college was present. The chief object of the Convocation is to grant diplomas to the successful candidates, and the authorities ought to consult the convenience and comfort of the students. We regret to say that the last Convocation seemed to have been held simply to enable the public to hear the speeches of the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor. Babu Krishna Frasad De passed the M.A. examination in two subjects, and stood first in both, but the Vice-Chancellor had not a word to say in appreciation of his achievement. Did not the authorities clearly neglect their duty by curtailing the time for the granting of diplomas ? There was an array of police constables in the Convocation. Was it not ridiculous to employ the police to maintain the peace in a meeting of educated men ? The Assistant Registrar or one of his assistants ought to have been present at the gate to receive the fellows. Some European and native gentlemen were insulted by the police. The University has many faults and shortcomings, and it has added another to the long list of its abuses.

29. The same paper learns that the Lieutenant-Governor has called for a report from the Director of Public Instruction on

The Hooghly College.

the Hooghly College, which has been showing unsatisfactory results for the last five years. The Director paid a visit to the Hooghly College, and it is most likely that Mr. Billing will be transferred on the strength of his report. There can be no comparison between the past and the present staff of the College. Some of those who are now working in the places of Messrs. Booth, Mann and Griffiths and Babus Kishori Mohan and Upendra Mohan and Mr. P. Mukherji, are no doubt brilliant scholars, but they have no educational experience. Good results cannot be expected from the quality of the instruction which is now imparted in the College. A first-grade college has degenerated into a third-grade college. It is a relief that the attention of the Government has at last been drawn to the fact.

PRATIVASI.

( f )—Questions affecting the land.

30. In continuation of the observations made in its previous issue (Report

Grievances of Khas Mahal  
tenants in the Midnapore district.

on Native Papers for the 17th February 1900, para-  
graph 35), the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda*  
*Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th February

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O-ANANDA  
BAZAR PATRIKA,  
Feb. 14th, 1900.

writes as follows on the subject of the grievances of khas mahal tenants in the Midnapore district:—

Thanks to the blundering policy of the authorities, the miseries of these khas mahal tenants have reached their climax during the last ten or twelve years; and if, over and above this, the statements made by our Midnapore correspondent regarding the enforcement of the certificate procedure are correct, those poor people will surely be undone. The correspondent says: "This is an extremely bad year. But what is that to the khas-mahal officers? They have made out certificates against almost all the defaulting tenants. This has so much perplexed them that they do not know what they should do now. In many cases certificates have been issued for very small arrears. Though many raiyats have deposited the amount of the certificates in the Contai khas office, they have not been let off. Not a few have had their goods and chattels distrained, while a considerable number have had fresh certificates served on them." The writer then gives the names of some of those who have been treated in this way. So much for arrears of rent. Certificates, it is said, are also being issued for the purpose of realising the current demand. If this be true, the result will be simply disastrous. Certain raiyats (whose names are given) have, in consequence of the loss of crops caused by inundations and the rigor with which rent is being realised by Government, left their homesteads, friends and relations, and found themselves compelled to settle in newly-reclaimed lands in the Sunderbans. Government, it is hoped, will follow the practice of former years and soon grant a remission of rent to the poorer raiyats in this very bad year, and depute a competent officer of superior position to enquire whether the allegations made by the khas-mahal tenants regarding the enforcement of the certificate procedure are true.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

KASIPUR NIVASI,  
Feb. 11th, 1900.

31. The *Kusipur Nivasi* [Barisal] of the 11th February says that the

A request for a feeder road in public will be greatly benefited if a feeder road is constructed from Kasipur in the Backergunge district to meet the Navagram road to the south of

Datta's Hât.

32. The *Busumati* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following:—

Free railway passes on the Eastern Bengal Railway. It is the practice to grant free passes to the railway servants who intend to make railway journeys. But we are sorry to learn that the Eastern

Bengal Railway authorities are going to deprive their servants of this privilege. Every railway servant gets a free pass twice a year and 1st class or 3rd class passes are issued according to the salary and rank of the employés. But the railway authorities are providing that—

"The length of journey will be in accordance with the salary of the recipient of the pass at ten miles per rupee of employment; thus a *chaprasi* on Rs. 7 would be eligible to a pass for a distance not exceeding 70 miles. Exception may be made in favour of employés proceeding to and from their homes, at the discretion of heads of departments."

That is, the railway employés will in future have to depend on the mercy of the heads of departments for what they now get as a matter of right. This will cause inconvenience to the up-country *chaprasis*, *jamadars* and other employés, who draw small salaries. The high paid officers will be the gainers by this arrangement. It has always been our impression that it is the poor who deserve pity and that it is the helpless who ought to be protected; but we now learn that all disadvantages and troubles should be borne by the poor, and all advantages and favours should be the monopoly of the highly-paid Englishmen and Babus. The authorities say:—

"In calculating the number of miles to which an employé is entitled, the distance out and back is to be taken into account; thus a pass from Calcutta to Poradah (103 miles) and back counts as 206 miles."

That is to say, a clerk who has his home in Poradah, and draws a salary of less than Rs. 25 a month, will not be given the benefit of a free pass. We do not know with what object the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities

are framing these stringent rules, and we see nothing but oppression lurking behind them. If the authorities are making these rules for the sake of curtailing expenditure, we are bound to say that the man who has framed them is no expert in accounts. Will not expenditure go down if it is ruled that an employé drawing a salary exceeding Rs. 100 will not be given a free pass? Would it be proper on the part of the authorities to deprive poor clerks and *chaprasis* of their small advantages? These poor creatures are always your humble servants; otherwise they would not have come from such distant places as the Punjab and Rajputana to serve in this malaria-stricken country. When they have come from such distant places they must be very poor. The authorities have not done well in framing such stringent rules regarding them. We shall be glad to see these rules withdrawn.

33. The *Rangpur Dikprakas* [Rangpur] of the 15th February complains that the straight road to Rangpur across the Tista river, *via* Mahipur and Busirhat, is in a very deplorable condition. Communications will be facilitated if this road is repaired. The other road to Rangpur, through village Abalia, is a round-about one and is not safe.

The old road to Lalmani *via* Bhalabari is also in a very wretched condition. The bridge over the river Sanksa has completely broken down, and people suffer great inconvenience in crossing this river, especially in the rainy season.

(h)—General.

34. The *Ulubaria Darpan* [Ulubaria] of the 12th February says that there having been a recrudescence of plague both in Plague examination at Ulubaria. Calcutta and Ghatal, it has been ordered that passengers for Kola Ghat and Ghatal will have to land at Ulubaria to be examined by the plague officers. But this is causing a great deal of inconvenience to the passengers, as they have to land with their luggages for fear of losing them. This inconvenience will be removed if the authorities order the passengers to be examined either at the starting station or at the place of destination. The passengers may also be examined on board the steamer.

35. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 14th February says:—  
The Bengal Chief Secretaryship. Mr. Bolton, it is said, will soon go on furlough, Mr. Bourdillon, the Commissioner of the Patna Division, officiating for him during his absence as Chief Secretary to the Bengal Government. Mr. Bolton possesses a good and tender heart and abundant sympathy with natives. Kindness is one of his natural virtues, and he weeps at the sight of misery and suffering. And yet he possesses great business capacity. To be able to preserve unimpaired the tender sentiments and affections of the heart in the midst of the rigour and sternness so characteristic of political life is surely evidence of true greatness. Mr. Bolton is the worthy Chief Secretary of Sir John Woodburn. We are glad to learn that Mr. Bourdillon will act as Chief Secretary, though for a short time. The sacred atmosphere and the grandeur of the exalted office once held by Mr. Cotton and after Mr. Cotton by Mr. Bolton cannot fail to inspire Mr. Bourdillon with lofty views and sentiments. We desire everybody's advancement. To err is human, but it always makes us happy to see a man marching forward in the path of improvement, no matter whether he does so under the influence of reward or of censure.

36. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the trouble and inconvenience which are being experienced by the 240 clerks of the Comptroller of Post Office who have been transferred to the branch office at Nagpur. They are suffering very acutely from the absence of proper house accommodation. Masonry building are rare in Nagpur, and the tiled huts are almost uninhabitable. Mr. Badshah had ordered the clerks to put up in Kamptee, but the journey from that place to Nagpur is both expensive and inconvenient, and they have not been able to obey their master. The only recommendation in favour of Nagpur as a site for a branch of the Comptroller's office is the large and commodious buildings vacated by the

RANGPUR  
DIKPRAKASH,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

ULUBARIA DARPAN,  
Feb. 12th, 1900.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Feb. 14th, 1900.

SRI SRI VISHNU  
PRIYA-O  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

Grievances of the clerks of the Comptroller of Post Office, Nagpur.

office of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway in which the Comptroller's office has been located.

The Deputy Comptroller of Nagpur seems to be following in the foot-steps of his chief. He has granted the clerks travelling allowance for only two servants each, urging that petty clerks cannot be expected to take more than two servants with them. The Deputy Comptroller is also making the clerks work for an additional half-hour.

Commenting on the above, the editor says that it is a heavy punishment for the poor clerks to be banished to an uninhabitable place. Has the new arrangement benefited the post office in any way? How long can people be expected to live in a place like Nagpur where house accommodation is so badly deficient and the water-supply is so unsatisfactory?

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following:—

Unlike his predecessors, Lord Curzon is going to pay a visit to Assam. The Assam Labour and Emigration Bill is now before the Council. Is it

Lord Curzon's proposed visit to Assam. the intention of the Viceroy in that connection to see with his own eyes the condition of the coolies in the tea-gardens? If so, the proposed visit is calculated to create much anxiety. Will the Viceroy be able to know the real state of things simply by inspecting the tea-gardens? The cunning tea-planters will probably present before him a lot of healthy and well-fed coolies and will make them say that they are living there in comfort. Whatever the intention of the Viceroy may be, we request him not to come to a wrong conclusion about the condition of the coolies.

38. A correspondent complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th

February that Vishnupur, a village in the Bankura district, is not regularly served by the Padampur

A postal complaint. post office. The postal peon gets letters, &c., distributed by the village people.

39. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 19th February is sorry that the number of deaths in Calcutta having risen, the plague officers have become a source of trouble to

The plague in Calcutta. the people. As soon as they hear of a death, they come to the house where death has occurred, and, after having burned some rags there, return to the Health Office to report that case as one of plague.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

40. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following:—

In giving the municipalities of the Dacca Executive interference with legislative election. Division the right of electing a member for the Bengal Legislative Council, the Lieutenant-Governor

expressly announced in the *Calcutta Gazette* that Government servants would not in any way interfere with the election. In spite of this express order of the Government, the Subdivisional Officer of Madaripur, in the Faridpur district, has taken the side of one of the candidates for election, and is requesting the Commissioners of the municipalities to give their votes to him. We hope that the Lieutenant-Governor will kindly enquire into the matter.

41. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 19th February is glad that the

The Whipping Bill. Government has condescended to withdraw that section in the Whipping Bill by which a juvenile

offender was required to be sentenced to whipping. It is expected that a new section will be added to the Bill to the effect that a prisoner sentenced to whipping shall be given sufficient time to appeal against the decision before the sentence is carried out. If such a provision is made, it will save many innocent people from the highhandedness of whimsical Magistrates.

42. With reference to the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, the same

The Telegraphic Press Messages Bill. paper observes that the Bill will bring no gain either to Reuter or to the Government. The

native papers and their readers will be the losers. They shall have to remain ignorant of foreign news for more than twenty-four hours. If the Bill is passed, the native papers will complain that the

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

HITAVADI,  
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Feb. 19th, 1900.

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Government has purposely done a great harm to them. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces has expressed himself against the Bill. Mr. Cotton, the Chief Commissioner of Assam, while opposing the Bill, laid stress on the fact that when no steps have yet been taken in England with respect to telegraphic press messages, it is unnecessary to introduce such a measure in India. It is a regret that the Committee in charge of the Bill is going to pass, in the teeth of so much opposition, a measure which will prohibit the native papers from copying telegraphic news from any other papers within 18 hours of its publication.

#### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

43. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 19th February has the following :—

Famine in Jodhpur.

Relief works have been opened in Dholara and Bankri in Jodhpur. Thirty-one thousand famine-stricken people are working on the relief works. An eye-witness writes that the starving people of these places have been reduced to skeletons. Their faces are pale and their eyes sunk deep in the sockets. They are half-naked, and have no winter clothing. At night they bury themselves deep in the sand, keeping only their faces above it in order to protect themselves against cold. Many such people are seen dead early in the morning covered with sand. Some five or seven days ago there was rain in Jodhpur, but it was very scanty. Many starving people died from the cold which followed. The Hindus of these places have bade goodbye to their caste prejudices. No one hesitates to eat food cooked by low-caste people. The rate of famine wages is very small; it is, in fact, barely sufficient to keep body and soul together. The Maharaja of Jodhpur used to give them once a week a sufficient quantity of *kichuri* to eat. But those who out of hunger ate too much, died the next day. The Maharaja is trying his best to save the lives of the poor people of his State. He has also promised to bring back, at his own cost, those who left his State for fear of the famine.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Feb. 9th, 1900.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

44. The *Hablu Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th February is glad that Lord Curzon is trying his best to relieve the distress of famine-stricken people of India. Through

The Famine Fund.

his ceaseless efforts a famine relief fund has been opened. He ought to direct his attention to one thing. He should see that half of the fund is not exhausted in paying salaries to the famine relief officers. He ought to employ native officers on small pay instead of high-paid European officers for supervising the distribution of famine relief. Last year most of the famine officers filled their pockets out of the famine fund. Every one expects better things this time.

HABLU MATEEN.  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

45. The *Hablu Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 12th February takes the following extract from a pamphlet entitled "Resala-

The decline of Islam and of  
Musulman power.

e-Nigaresh-e-Yake az-Aaziem-e-Ulama-e-Islam"

(رسالہ نگارش یکے از اعاظم علماء اسلام) :—The best kingdom

is that which is built upon a good foundation. It is through the clashing of swords, the neighing of chargers, the clanking of the arms of heroes and the waving of the spears of the soldiers that the flag of Islamic success was raised against polytheism, obstacles were surmounted against numerous odds, the Islamic empire was founded upon the ruin of stygian kingdoms, and Islam flourished, the hostility of enemies and infidels notwithstanding.

46. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 14th February writes as follows :—

English sympathy with India.

We did not expect that England in her present distress would be able to come to the relief of the famine-stricken in India. But a nation who consider themselves the foremost power in the world cannot allow a war like the Boer war to stand in the way of their doing their duty. The Indian people have raised lakhs of rupees for the relief of the

HABLU MATEEN.  
Feb. 12th, 1900.

SANSODHINI,  
Feb. 14th, 1900.

distressed families of the killed and wounded British soldiers, and the English people are raising lakhs for the relief of the famine-stricken in India. Such patience, such generosity and such dutifulness are possible only in the English people, and it is association with such a dutiful nation that has enabled the Indian people to feel for the distressed people in England.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Feb. 14th, 1900.

47. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 14th February writes that there are relics of ancient architecture in almost every district in the country in the shape of beautiful temples. Among such temples in Midnapore, one may mention the temple of Mahamaya in Karnagarh, the temple of Barga Bhima in Tamluk, the temple of Bisalakshi in Barada, and the temple of Sarva Mangala in Garbeta. The Collector and the zamindars of the district ought to look to the preservation of these relics of ancient Indian architecture.

SANJIVANI,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

48. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following:—

The Indian correspondent of the *Times* had been so long slandering the Indians. The *Times* of Bombay, the *Pioneer*, the *Morning Post*, the

*Civil and Military Gazette*, and the *Englishman* have always called the Indians disloyal. But out of evil cometh good. At least one good has come out of the many evils of the Boer War. Our slanderers have now changed their tone. Seeing how the Indians are anxious to relieve the distress of the destitute families of the soldiers killed in the Transvaal War, how the Indian Chiefs are helping the Government with horses and money, and how anxious the Indians are for British victory, they have now learnt to set some value on the loyalty of the Indians. Fifteen years ago, when a war between the English and the Russians was talked of, the Indian princes offered to help the Government with troops. The *Times* now alludes to that and is loud in its praise of the Indian princes. The English settlers of Natal hated the Indians. The *Natal Advertiser* always filthily abused the Indians. But now that paper apologises for its past conduct, and greets the Indians as their fellow-subjects. The inhabitants of Natal have been struck with the courage, self-sacrifice and dutifulness of the Indian stretcher-bearers, who do not shrink from risking their lives in carrying wounded English soldiers under the hottest fire. In this time of their danger, the English nation, as a whole, have been able to realise the sincere loyalty of the Indian people. Will this impression remain fast in the mind of the English nation when, by the grace of God, all these troubles will have passed away and a better day will have dawned on them? The Bengalis are never treacherous. Let not the English open a path for their own ruin by distrusting them.

BASUMATI,  
Feb. 15th, 1900.

49. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 15th February has the following with reference to the speech delivered by Lord Curzon

The Viceroy on ancient Indian buildings at the Asiatic Society of Bengal:—

No other Viceroy ever spoke such plain and simple truth in such a straightforward manner or ever showed such sympathy with the past glories of ancient India. Hindus, Mahammadans, Jains, and Buddhists are alike grateful to Lord Curzon. He has plainly said that many Europeans, wanting in common sense, have deformed and even demolished temples and places which were monumental specimens of ancient Indian architecture. But we are sorry that the Viceroy said nothing about the grievances of the Lucknow people. Kisar Bag, that magnificent palace of Lucknow, has been turned into an arsenal and a pleasure resort for British soldiers. It will be good if His Excellency directs his attention to that. Lucknow, the magnificent city of India, is putting on an European appearance under the influence of European Engineers. We may now hope that in future no such vandalism will be countenanced.

The Viceroy said in conclusion: "In my opinion the tax-payers of this country are in the least degree unlikely to resent a somewhat higher expenditure."

There is no question of pleasure or resentment in this matter. The people of India will gladly bear any cost for the preservation of these monuments of ancient architecture. But there must not be any new taxation.

50. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 16th February is glad to learn that

Assault on a native lady in the Zoological Gardens. the attention of the authorities has been drawn to the case in which a Eurasian assaulted a Bengali lady in the Zoological Gardens. Maharaj Kumar Pradyot Kumar

Tagore is trying his best to prevent such occurrences in future. It will be a great gain if the Maharaj Kumar can induce the authorities to pass a law resembling the Park Act in England. It was simply because there is no such law that the offender could not be brought to justice. The offender was of course sent to the police-station, but if he had refused to go, no one could have compelled him to go, for the police has no power to arrest in such a case. Moreover, the lady concerned in this case and her friends were unwilling to go to the thana. Native women are always unwilling to make their names public.

51. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 17th February writes as follows in an article headed "Why does everybody dislike the English?" :—

The question "why have the English so many enemies?" is at the present moment being discussed in many English newspapers. According to some people, this universal dislike of Englishmen proceeds from envy caused by their possession of excessive wealth and a world-wide empire, while others maintain that it is the arrogance and pride of power which characterises the English that has made them an object of dislike to all the nations of the world. The latter view, we are inclined to believe, is more reasonable than the former. Whatever the country an Englishman may visit, whether as a tourist or as a seeker of employment, he is sure to conduct himself in a way that would lead one to suppose that he was the sovereign of that country; nay, not even the real sovereign of that country could give himself such airs as the Englishman gives himself when in it. It is therefore only natural that wherever the Englishman may go he is sure to make himself unpopular. But there is another powerful cause of his unpopularity. This is the excessive selfishness of the Englishman. It is because the English are selfish that they are unjust and oppressive. The English understand their own interests very well and are well able to promote those interests by any and every means, without minding whether or no by such conduct they do injury to others or destroy rights and privileges belonging to others. By rupturing the spleens of many coolies by way of frolic, Englishmen have become unpopular in India, while English Judges, blinded by love for their fellow-countrymen, have let off such English offenders, and consequently become still more unpopular. The injustice done to Dreyfus in France made Englishmen anxious to become known as incarnations of justice, but they were silent when the Natu brothers were kept under surveillance without a trial. The English have kept the Indians prostrate at their feet, have in no way given them equal rights with Englishmen, and yet, under circumstances precisely similar, they have, on the pretence of securing equal rights for the Englishmen and Boers in the Transvaal, declared war against that small State. This is a striking example of English selfishness. How different the conduct of Englishmen in circumstances exactly similar. A native's dog chased an Englishman's dog in a street, but for this, in the course of English justice, the native had to beg for pardon. If a native commits an outrage on an English woman, he is sure to be sent to jail, but an Englishman outraging a native woman is easily let off without punishment after the farce of a trial. To prove this it will not perhaps be necessary to call the reader's attention to the outrage case in Burma, while any reference to oppression by the masters of tea-gardens will probably be considered superfluous. In seeking to impress a sickly cooly as a labourer by *zubberdast*, some Englishmen found that the cooly was not willing to work in that way. He was then beaten. But when the assaulted cooly went to the hospital for a certificate with a view of bringing a case against those Englishmen, he was arrested in the hospital, and all the officials in the district—Judge, Subordinate Judge, Magistrate and the rest—combined for the purpose of saving the offending Englishman, and got the poor cooly sentenced to imprisonment. This is the story of Mr. Pennell of Chapra. The case of a native wounded or killed by a bullet from an English gun is regarded as an accident, but if the case is reversed, the result is different, the native being either sent to jail or transported. If a Bengali does not *salaam* an

HITAVADI,  
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Englishman the whip is used and a fine is imposed, but Englishmen do not perhaps *salaam* even a native Judge of the High Court. Recently the Ahmedabad correspondent of the *Bengalee* newspaper published an account of oppression committed by an Englishman. An Englishman, one De Breton, has opened a slaughter-house in that city. The Hindus protested and petitioned against it, but to no purpose. Certain respectable pleaders of Ahmedabad went to see the slaughter-house, but were rebuked by the Englishman's servants, who bound them hand and foot. When the Collector appeared on the scene the native gentlemen complained to him of the treatment they had been subjected to, but even he refused to interfere, and it was not before they had undergone further harassment that they were released. Referring to this incident, the *Bengalee*'s correspondent says that "people believe there is no safety even under British rule against a European." This is true. This is why the English are so unpopular with the Indians. It is for this uncontrolled behaviour of Englishmen, this "do what I say, but do not do what I do" style of conduct of theirs that nobody likes them. That England to-day has many enemies is because she oppresses the humble and the weak.

BHARAT MITRA,  
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52. Commenting on the *Bangavasi*'s article on Bengali loyalty in the Trans-vaal war (*vide* Report on Native Papers for the 17th February 1900, paragraph 4), the *Bharat Mitra*

[Calcutta] of the 19th February says that Bengalis as a rule are not accustomed to the use of arms. Bengali boys do not know how to handle even an air gun. How can they, then, be expected to handle rifles in battlefield when they grow up? It is doubted whether Bengalis are fit even to look after the horses of soldiers. Even if the Government gives the Bengalis arms, very few will be willing to go to the front. If Bengalis go to the front to meet the enemy, which of the two things will they manage—rifle or *dhoti*? To manage the *dhoti* a Bengali volunteer will require two servants to keep his *dhoti* tight round his waist. The Government will have to furnish each Bengali volunteer with two servants and perhaps two more to take care of his rifle.

HABUL MATEEN.  
Feb. 19th, 1900.

53. The *Habul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 19th February has the following in continuation of what it wrote in the preceding issue, *vide* paragraph 45 :—

The decline of Islam and of Musalman power.

When the Musalmans sheathed their swords and lost their courage, when they began to read and write and came to taste luxury and wine and began to walk through pages of paper instead of through the field of battle, their far-reaching vision was dimmed, and they began to love a luxurious life, to live in towns and aspire after self-aggrandisement. By-the-by, the leaders of the Musalmans became busy gratifying their own passions and ambitions and began to care more for pleasure than for warfare. At last they gave themselves up to merry-making, and fine dress and delicious food became the sole objects of their desire and aspiration. In the long run the Musalmans became so intoxicated with the wine of luxury that they took no notice of the movements of those who were waiting for an opportunity to carry out their design. *Alims* of Islam, busy in their researches in the different branches of knowledge, arrived at conflicting conclusions, and failed to distinguish the real from the unreal. These conflicting conclusions have affected Islam, and it has become very difficult to understand what is true Islam. The *alims* have become indifferent to their duties, so much so that they now hesitate to expound religious truths. The Musalmans, following the lead of their *alims*, have learnt to neglect their religion, and they are now wanting in courage. They are committing sin, and becoming immoral. They have lost their wealth and have, therefore, to be content with misery and poverty. Musalman kingdoms, therefore, are declining, Musalman nationality is giving way, Musalman rulers are about to be ruined, and Musalman unity is about to disappear. The history of Islam will say that it is bravery and courage, hardihood and strength, Islamic zeal and fidelity, that kept the Turks so long upon the throne. They conquered many nations. They promulgated Islam, and overpowered the enemies of Islam. Many kings had to acknowledge the Turks as their lords. All this was due to the fact that the Turks used to act according to the Koran. When they began to mix with the nations of Europe, they lost their former character, and became weak and ease-loving, so much so that their enemies now call them weak, and they

themselves now believe that they are weak. They are true Musalmans who love war, and are eager and ready for war and well versed in military tactics and very quick to kill enemies. The Koran, the Hadis and the lives of Muhammadan worthies are full of instruction which teaches mankind how to meet death courageously on the battlefield and how to handle the spear with murderous effect. God says that those who are killed in fighting for God are not really killed—they live. If there is any time for us to make preparations for meeting an enemy, it is this. The aliens are trying from all sides to destroy us, they preach justice and forbid bloodshed and barbarity, but they do not act according to the principles they preach. Look at France; she calls herself mother of liberty, equality and fraternity. Look at Russia, who is well up in the art of warfare. There is no doubt that the alien nations have made great progress in the art of warfare. England has never had to fight with a nation on a grand scale. It is true that she fought on many occasions with Eastern peoples and defeated them. Her threats have the effect of real fighting, so much so that she does not require to take up the sword and use it against her enemy on the battlefield.

#### URIYA PAPERS.

54. Referring to the sale of the property of Ganga Prasad Patnaik,

Payment of land revenue by  
money-order.

who had remitted revenue to the Cuttack Collectorate through the Bhadrak post office by revenue money-order, the amount of the money-order not reaching the Cuttack Collectorate in time through the mistake or negligence of the postal officials, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 10th February and the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 17th January call upon the Government to right the injustice by introducing such reforms into the revenue money order system as to fix some responsibility on the postal officials, who should not only be recognised as the agents of the remitters, but also as the agents of Government that they, in reality, are to all intents and purposes.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
Feb. 10th, 1900.

55. In noticing the death of Professor Gilliland of the Presidency College, the *Samvadavahika* [Balasore] of the 1st

Students commemorating the  
memory of deceased professors.

February is gratified to learn that the students of that College have resolved to make a suitable

recognition of the same, and hopes that the example may not be lost on the minds of students reading in the different schools and colleges of Orissa, who may have to mourn the death of any of their beloved teachers or professors any day.

SAMVADVAHAKA,  
Feb. 1st, 1900.

56. Referring to the introduction of gold coins in India, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 10th February suggests that

The gold coin in India. steps should be taken to enable all traders and merchants to have their coins easily exchanged in every subdivisional or district treasury.

UTKALDIPAKA,  
Feb. 10th, 1900.

57. Referring to the failure of all B. L. candidates from the Ravenshaw

Failure of the Ravenshaw  
College in the B. L. examination. College. Cuttack, in the last B. L. examination, the same paper suggests that if the failure is due to any defect or want in the teaching arrangements, some students should, at any rate, try their chance in Calcutta by joining the Ripon College or any other institution of the kind.

UTKALDIPAKA.

58. Referring to the services which the Indians are rendering to the army in South Africa and which are being highly

The Indians in Natal. spoken of by the newspapers of Natal, the same

paper observes that the British colony in South Africa must not burden these Indians with disqualifications after the war is over. The Indians in South Africa ought to be, at least, treated in the same way as their brethren in British India.

UTKALDIPAKA.

UTKALDIPKA,  
Feb. 10th, 1900.

59. The same paper is of opinion that the flower show at Cuttack has proved successful, as a large number of visitors were attracted to inspect the same with curiosity and pleasure. The number of articles sent for exhibition increased from 489 in 1899 to 700 in 1900, while the visitors carried with them a better impression and a laudable desire to compete for prizes next year. The management of the exhibition proceedings was excellent, and there was no ground for complaint.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 24th February, 1900.